

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-71 (Canceled):

Claim 72 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image carrier that is rotatable and configured to carry a latent image;

a cleaning blade that cleans toner remaining on a cleaning area on the latent image

carrier; and

a lubricant applying element that is arranged on downstream side of the cleaning blade with respect to direction of rotation of the latent image carrier, and that applies a lubricant to a lubricant applying area on the latent image carrier, wherein the cleaning area and the lubricant applying area overlap.

Claim 73 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the cleaning area and the lubricant applying area are substantially a same area on the latent image carrier.

Claim 74 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the lubricant applying element is a brush roller and the lubricant is a bar-shaped lubricant, and the image forming apparatus includes a mechanism that rotates the brush roller so that the brush roller scrapes off the bar-shaped lubricant and applies scrapped lubricant to the latent image carrier.

Claim 75 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 74, further comprising a smoothing blade, wherein

the cleaning blade is provided on an upstream side in the direction of rotation of the latent image carrier, and the smoothing blade is provided on the downstream side, and widths of the brush roller and the smoothing blade with the latent image carrier in its longitudinal direction have a relation:

width of brush roller \leq width of smoothing blade.

Claim 76 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 75, wherein widths of the brush roller and the cleaning blade with the latent image carrier in its longitudinal direction have a relation:

width of brush roller \leq width of cleaning blade.

Claim 77 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 74, wherein widths of the bar-shaped lubricant and the brush roller with the latent image carrier in its longitudinal direction have a relation:

width of lubricant \leq width of brush roller.

Claim 78 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein widths of a charged portion and a lubricant applied on the latent image carrier in its longitudinal direction have a relation:

charge width \leq width of lubricant applied.

Claim 79 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the latent image carrier has a frictional coefficient of 0.4 or less.

Claim 80 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the cleaning blade includes a side seal for preventing toner scattering, and the lubricant applying area can be adjusted based on position of the side seal.

Claim 81 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is such that a shape factor SF-1 indicating a degree of sphericity of a toner shape is in a range from 100 to 180, and that a shape factor SF-2 indicating a degree of irregularities of the toner shape is in a range from 100 to 180.

Claim 82 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is such that a volume-average particle size (D_v) is in a range from 3 to 8 micrometers, and a degree of dispersion defined by a ratio (D_v/D_n) between the volume-average particle size (D_v) and a number-average particle size (D_n) is in a range from 1.00 to 1.40.

Claim 83 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is such that a ratio (r₂/r₁) between a minor axis and a major axis of the toner is in a range from 0.5 to 1.0, a ratio (r₃/r₂) between its thickness and the minor axis is in a range from 0.7 to 1.0, and a relation of major axis r₁ ≥ minor axis r₂ ≥ thickness r₃ is satisfied.

Claim 84 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the toner is obtained by allowing a toner material solution to undergo either one of or both of crosslinking reaction and elongation reaction in an aqueous medium, the toner material solution being obtained by dissolving or dispersing at least a polymer having a portion

enabling reaction with a compound that contains an active hydrogen group, and a release agent in an organic solvent.

Claim 85 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising:

a process cartridge that integrally supports the latent image carrier and at least one selected from a lubricant applying device which applies the lubricant to the latent image carrier, a charging device, a developing device, and a cleaning device, and that is detachably mounted.

Claim 86 (New): A process cartridge to be coupled to an image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image carrier on which a latent image is formed; and
a process unit that includes at least one selected from
a cleaning device that cleans the surface of the image carrier, and
a lubricant applying device that is arranged on downstream side of the cleaning device with respect to direction of rotation of the image carrier, and that applies a lubricant to a lubricant applying area on the image carrier, wherein the cleaning area and the lubricant applying area overlap, wherein
the process cartridge integrally supports the image carrier and the process unit, and is detachable from the image forming apparatus.